

WRESTLING FORUM

AUGUST 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 16

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WE'RE BACK...TYPOS AND ALL

Well, we're off and running with yet another edition of Wrestling Forum and a whole other batch of typographical errors that you've all come to know and love. For those of you who have been following the mini soap opera of the Gallagher household, you'll know the problems we've been having with anything mechanical including typewriters, photo copy machines, cars, fans and VCR's. The regular typewriter is in the shop and has been for the past three weeks so I've got a loaner from the shop. One of the main problems is that this one doesn't have spell check and I don't proofread until the bulletin is in the mail (real professional, huh?). Anyway, they've promised me my typewriter back on Saturday, so hopefully we won't have to put up with all the problems of an editor with iron fingers.

Last issue looked almost like it was done in a foreign language with some of the extra letters in the words. Sean called to point out a small insignificant typo in his tournament where instead of having eight matches, we had eleven. That comes from doing the bulletin at 1:00 am most of the time. He had read the results to me over the phone and I did the next round match ups myself. Problem was, I forgot to include a bye from the previous round. I caught the mistake, retyped the new pairings and just planned to cut the old ones out and paste over them. I wondered why it took up so much of the page. Anyway, we're back to putting the thing out again and please, just understand the mistakes. I'm going to keep making them until the day I die.

We better get the legal stuff out of the way (although I'm convinced that half of you don't read this page)...Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th and 30th of each month and mailed the following day. Prices are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for any amount UP TO six months worth (twelve issues max for \$18.00) or anywhere inbetween.

There's a rumor I want to get out of the way before getting on to the rest of the stuff. We are not going out of business. I've taken probably fifteen calls over the past couple of weeks on this and I know how most of it got started. There are times that at deadline, I get very cranky because things mechanical tend not to work. Some of you call during this time and catch me at my worst. That's one possibility. The other concerns our subscription policy of only accepting a maximum of six months worth of issues. The reason for this revolves around the way subscriptions are processed. Each subscriber has their very own subscription sheet. When you subscribe, we type up enough labels on this sheet for the duration of your subscription. It has only got room for fifteen labels. Part of those labels contain other information we use leaving only about twelve or thirteen for addresses. The other reason we accept only six months worth at a time is because I don't want to be committed to doing a bulletin for any longer than that. Some of you have construed this as meaning we're going to give it up. Not true. That's a policy we had from the beginning some 62 issues ago. Just don't take things the wrong way. We've invested too much time and money over the past couple of weeks to toss it in the dumpster anytime in the near future.

One other thing...you might be saying to yourself, "Gee, the Forum done on the printing press doesn't look any different from the ones done with the copier!" You'd be saying that with good reason. The trucking company messed up on their dates and as a result, the press is still located in Moline, IL and will be until the Labor day Weekend. Oh well, if that had gone smoothly, I'd have been suspicious.

On to other things with Jeff Siegel leading off with the Wrestling Barometer...

THE WRESTLING BAROMETER: AUGUST, 1988

BY JEFF SIEGEL

Welcome to the August edition of "The Wrestling Barometer", Wrestling Forum's exclusive monthly look at what's hot and what's not in the world of professional wrestling!

Things picked back up again this month for the "Barometer", with participation pretty much back up where it was at the start of the summer season. What's more, we were particularly pleased to hear from a number of readers (and our editor as well) who informed us that the "Barometer" is being quoted over the Los Angeles Wrestling Hotline.

A little bit of credibility never hurt anyone, I guess.

As usual, we begin with a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying "Barometer" entries: 5 points is awarded for a first place vote, 3 points is awarded for a second place vote, 1 point is awarded for a third place vote, and $\frac{1}{2}$ point is awarded for every item that is included on a voter's list from fourth place on. Then, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in this column. The minimum point total allows us to focus on the month's major trends.

Now, on to the August results:

WHAT'S HOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. Curt Hennig signs with Titan (39 points)
2. Eddie Gilbert's booking (27 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. Brother Love segments (19 points)
4. The Windy City Wrestling promotion (18 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. The Road Warriors' demise (31 points)
2. Summer Slam '88 (31 points)
3. Dick Murdoch's turn (25 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
4. The "King" Haku skit (16 points)

NOTES: Some interesting surprises on the "Hot" side of the ledger this month. First off, Curt Hennig's jump to Vinceland seems to have attracted quite a bit of attention--enough to gain the top spot on this list. Perhaps some of us underestimated the significance of Vince signing another group's "World Champion" away from 'em....The very appearance of the Brother Love segments on the up side must be construed as a surprise as well. After last month's horrendous showing on the opposite end of the voting, the good Brother pulled off a pretty miraculous turnaround. Personally, I can't figure it out--the segments still seems to run way too long and remain amazingly predictable... Eddie Gilbert's fine showing is no surprise. The booking of the "Continental Lover" (ooops, that was a different "Eddie", wasn't it?) is undeniably the rage of the country during the past two months.... Looks like the downturn of the Roadies has reached epic proportions. Seems like everyone is all too aware of it now...Admittedly, almost all of the votes for the Windy City promotion came from Chicagoland readers who have already been exposed to it. Bodes well for their future prospects, though...It'll be interesting to see what "Barometer" direction Summer Slam heads in after the event is history. Somehow, I doubt it'll follow in Brother Love's heavenly footsteps....And please note: Dusty Rhodes has now been absent from this page for two months running. Is there nothing you can count on anymore????

The deadline for September "Barometer" ballots is September 22. As always, entries and related comments should be sent to:

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Evanston, IL 60204

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

If I keep watching these guys, I'm going to seriously hurt myself laughing. Vern Gagne has been suspended by Stanley Blackburn. Honest. At least that's the latest announcement from Larry Nelson.

It all revolves around this dumb "big announcement" thing they're doing. Verne slipped last week and said that it had to do with being the biggest event ever. Blackburn must not have liked his boss doing that so he suspended him from all broadcast except to do color commentary. Should he make any comments about the "big announcement" while doing color, he is suspended for good.

There are two schools of thought on what the big announcement is. One says there is no big announcement and what they are doing is waiting for something to happen that could be construed as a big announcement. The other says that it has to do with a PPV event that they have tried to put together.

The PPV event has tentatively been set for December 26th, but that could change as that is also the date that the NWA has picked out for their event (possibly to replace Starrcade). The "one little wrinkle" that they keep harping on is actually several large mountains. First, they have no building to hold the show in. They have tried to secure the Metrodome in Minneapolis, the Amphitheatre and Horizon in Chicago, some place in Gary Indiana, and the Showboat in Las Vegas. It seems that none of the places are either available or want anything to do with the PPV aspect of the show. The showboat would be their best all round choice, however, that's where they do everything from and they want to portray a different setting. Shoot, after watching mat classics, they could still do it in Las Vegas and just tell the home audience that it's being done at Madison Square Garden or anywhere else they'd like to.

Second stumbling block seems to be talent. The AWA certainly doesn't have a talent roster that could even have a prayer of drawing a national audience. Jerry Lawler might pick them up a few homes in the Memphis area, but I seriously doubt if he has the AWA title that long. The Von Erichs have been mentioned, but they have little drawing power outside of Texas. Owens appears to be working with the NWA now, so that leaves little left. The AWA's reputation of telling lies like they were going to run out of style doesn't help their reputation in the business anymore than it does with the sheets and the fans. It might just take a major failure of this proportion to smack Verne in the face.

Good luck finding the AWA on ESPN. It's now both college football season and coming up on college basketball season and therefore ESPN's second highest rated program will have to take a backseat to the 53rd ranked programs. Verne and ESPN deserve each other.

The last regular ESPN show had me impressed. It featured a mat classic featuring two of my all time favorites, Nick Bockwinkel and Billy Robinson. We only got to see about three minutes of the 42 minute match but boy did it bring back some pleasant memories. No high flying stuff, just solid spots and chain wrestling that made today's stars pale in comparison.

Now just so you don't think I like only old time mat work, they showed another match that was among the best they've done recently. It featured the Guererro Brothers against Badd Company. Good solid action with few missed moves. The next taping is supposed to have all three Guereros against Badd Company and Colonel DeBeers.

Ricky Rice and John Paul need some more work together. They are missing moves all over the place. Of course with the "rigorous" AWA schedule, it's understandable why they don't work well together. They are now being called the Top Guns and are wearing Air Force jackets into the ring. Upcoming are a series of matches against Diamond and Tanaka. Rice and Paul should have the chance to hone their skills here. They are not without potential...they just aren't clicking.



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This issue's WAPT jumps around a little courtesy of an unnamed source that has had access to a great many wrestlers in the past few years. Realize that all of these columns are personal experiences and yours may or may not be the same.

STEVE KEIRN: Doesn't like to talk about the business. Enjoys a drink or two. Prefers not to be in the ring with shooters.

JERRY LAWLER: If he has the time, The "King" will talk shop. He got into the business as a "smart fan" and will never forget his roots. Is well liked in all areas of Memphis, rich or poor.

KEVIN KELLY: Not a big talker but a decent chap. Loves to talk about his boat and the money he believes Verne owes him.

SHERRI MARTEL: Sharpe tongued and fiery. Prefers not to talk shop and often stays in character. Likes her "spirits" and would fit well with the Waylon Jennings clique.

DOUG SOMMERS: Soft spoken and very humble. Almost twenty years of experience yet only 37 years old. Speaks with a rasp. Always on the look for new moves and talent. Enjoys talking about he and Rose's feud with the Rockers...especially if given credit for teaching the kids.

PAT TANAKA: Quite brash and cocky. Strutted around the bar like he was a true star.

PAUL DIAMOND: A bit like his partner, but will talk once in a while.

BOB BACKLUND: very kind and always has time to talk. Appreciates discussions about the scientific bouts.

RICK RUDE: Very quiet off set. Will talk in short sentences, but only as much as he has to.

RICK MARTEL: one of the boys. Protects the business in talks. Is very worried about mid life problems. Don't point out his bald spot.

BOBBY HEENAN: Quick witted and sharp 24 hours a day. Is always one angle ahead of the world.

JESSE VENTURA: Is totally professional. Knocks steroid use when given a forum. Will patiently appease autograph seekers.

WAHOO MCDANIEL: Continues to reminisce about mid-Atlantic days. not terribly cordial but not overtly rude either.

VERNE GAGNE: Will talk about the downfall of wrestling. Privately will admit to making some mistakes and vows to fight back.

HULK HOGAN: Is generally friendly, but definitely enjoys stardom. Even likes the boys to bow to him.

BARRY DARSOW (^{Smash} of Demolition): Friendly and talkative. A bit more subdued since his knee injuries. Don't invite him and Dusty to the same party.

EDDIE SHARKEY: Loves war history and memorabilia. Loves the sheets and keeping up on the business. Very warm to all he meets.

KAMALA: Doesn't like talking about the business or the sport. Enjoys staying home on his ranch and riding his tractor.

BILLY JACK HAYNES: Likes to call you "brother." Hates drugs and won't let wrestlers smoke in the dressing rooms.

WARLORD: has a tremendous appetite for food. Talks kind of slowly.

STAN KOWALSKI: Prefers talking politics but likes the good old days. Always has time to talk to fans.

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NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Folks, the stuff coming out of here as to whether or not the NWA has been sold to Ted Turner is enough to drive a sane person over the brink. I'll give you the story chronologically and let you try to sort things out along with me:

THURSDAY, Aug, 18: I got a call from someone in the NWA telling me that a deal was close. There is a meeting scheduled for the next morning between the lawyers from the two sides. Both Jim Crockett and Ted Turner are both out of the negotiations now and have turned things over to their respective legal counsels.

SATURDAY, Aug 20: Another call from a different source. This one tells me the deal was completed on Friday and the actual signing will take place on Monday. Few changes will be evident right away but in the next 60-90 days, things will change gradually. But after that time we'll look back on August and go, "Wow! Did things ever change!" Talk was mainly of new talent coming in, all of which was rumored at this point with a lot of big names being mentioned. Basically, think of anyone not connected with Titan at this time and you've got all the names for rumors. I was told also that the boys had been informed of the deal at the TBS taping that morning and on the show that night everyone looked both relieved and happy. Though your basic squash show with no new angles being filmed (which led all of us to believe the deal was eminent - they don't do new stuff with new management coming in) the air in the studio was a lot different than it had been in previous weeks.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21: I called a friend who works at WTBS. Things started getting sticky. I was told that they would definitely be replacing Dusty as booker and that they had been talking to Bill Watts. Turner had made an offer to Watts to pay off the debt owed him by Crockett if he'd come to work for them. Watts reportedly didn't like that deal since he was to have been paid for selling the UWF, not being a booker. Turner left him with the ball in his court with something like if he didn't take the booker job, he'd have to get his money out of Crockett on his own that Turner wasn't going to assume that debt.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23: Another call from NWA source. A rumor was circulating between the boys that something had gone wrong. Very wrong. No one was returning phone calls that had been previously returned in a matter of minutes. There are still a couple of "minor" points in the legal terminology I was told by other sources. Titan sources call and tell me they heard things fell completely through. At this point, everything is in the rumor stage.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25: The minor point has turned into a major one. We're still not sure what that point is, but it reportedly involves who is going to handle certain outstanding debts occurred by Crockett.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26: Ted Turner issues an ultimatum: Finish the deal by September 15, or the whole thing is off. There is unrest in the Crockett camp once again.

Some of the dissatisfaction is evident by certain wrestlers' absences. Ron Garvin has quit (although some would have you believe he was fired - of course, that story comes from the front office) and from what we can decipher, it was over money. They are giving a story out about how Dusty and Ron got in an altercation in the hotel room (what were they doing in the same hotel room anyway?) where they were staying and Dusty beat him up so badly that Ron's ribs will probably take at least four to six months to heal. At least they were nice enough to leave the door open for his return in case Turner buys the promotion after all. A problem here is that Ron will be doing some AWA spot shows in the Carolinas and his ribs will no doubt, be fine.

I'm not sure on the status of Jim Garvin and Precious. I have heard that they quit/were laid off (laid off as opposed to the more

permanent "fired" until more money is available. I seriously doubt if he would be available for unemployment benefits, however.

One animal on the endangered species list is called the babyface manager. Managers were created to raise hell, interfere and do interviews for people who can't string more than four or five words together without losing their train of thought. Babyface managers are out of place because they CAN'T cheat by interfering, they have to be docile at ringside, and babyface wrestlers come off a little better if they do humbly stumble over their words (makes them sound sincere). The only reason Paul Ellering sticks around (or should I say is kept around) is because he legitimately handles the business of the Road Warriors. So when Jim Cornette was told that the Midnight Express was going to turn babyface to feud with Tully and Arn, he must have gotten a little nervous. He had just been placed on the endangered species list. But Jim's making the most out of his new role. He's still joking, but this past weekend, he got serious and had the studio crowd popping like I never thought I'd see.

What had happened was this: Stan Lane was going to wrestle in a singles squash match. Jim was at ringside doing commentary while Bobby Eaton was left alone in the dressing room. Teddy Long, NWA referee comes to ringside and tell Jim that he's needed in the locker room. Jim gets Stan out of the ring and they go back to find Bobby laying in a heap on the dressing room floor with the whole room trashed. The angle is that the Horsemen beat him up. On the TBS show they went from the tape to an interview and Jim proved why he is the leading candidate for manager of the year again with his ability not only to do the insulting Don Rickles type of interview, but the serious, "we're out for revenge and going to kick your bootie" type interview as well. Bobby Eaton actually said more than "You piece of junk you piece of garbage!" during his turn and it was very effective as well.

Jimmy Garvin appeared on the TBS show tonight so I guess that means he's not laid off afterall.

Steve Williams also appeared and that surprised me. He's not going to be the guest on Brother Love's segment Monday night as I would imagine he's either going to be out looking for a good lawyer or wondering what he's going to be doing for the next eighteen months or so. On August 15, he was arraigned in US District Court in Detroit on charges of attempting to export cocaine. The charges stem from an incident on January 4th of this year when Williams was boarding a flight to Tokyo and was found to have three grams of coke in his pants pocket, 22 grams of marijuana in his sock and two grams of Psilocybin mushrooms and assorted barbituates in a purse he was carrying. In his luggage they allegedly found more barbituates and pot along with 241 steroid capsules/tablets and 38 milliliters of a liquid steroid. He was released on a \$25,000 bond and was ordered to surrender his passport (which blows his October Japan tour) and restrict his travel to the continental United States. It was reported in the Daily Oklahoman that he was under consideration for a diversion program that would have allowed him to avoid criminal prosecution, but a court pretrial service division had recommended against that route. Officials had been unable to find him and issued a warrant for his arrest two weeks ago and agents caught up with him in Seattle. Steve faces a fine of up to a quarter of a million dollars and up to eighteen months in jail as a result of the charges. It's a good thing they caught him before he got to Japan or he might never have seen the US again.

Surprisingly, I can't find any evidence that the Crockett promotion tried to cover up the charges. I'm told that when Williams was no showing last winter (and we all assumed he was on his way to Titanland) he was actually dealing legally with these charges. You'll remember in fact that Steve had some problems getting back from Japan for the Bunkhouse Stampede finals in New York. I guess this answers the question as to why. Doc evidently did not tell Crockett about his legal problem until a couple of weeks ago. This story made local press in Detroit and Tulsa, but nothing nationally, although it may help NCAA investigations into

alleged "weight training procedures" at schools like Oklahoma University. I guess this also answers the questions as to why Doc can't do an interview that makes any sense.

Other things going on here include them teaming Nikita with Ricky Morton. I wonder what they did to deserve each other?

Rotundo and Steiner continue to bicker with each other with Sullivan always being the peacemaker. Well, peacemaker isn't really the right term, but it's close. Their stuff gets funnier and funnier with Steiner acting like the biggest goof on the face of the earth and Rotundo as the "intelligent jock" which means he's one of the preppie types right out of the Revenge of the Nerds movies. Even Mary comes in to watch this little skit when they're on. Personally, I hope they never turn Steiner as this thing is one of those that could go on for a long time.

Brad Armstrong is being set up to feud with Al Perez it looks like. They shot an angle where Perez brought in a chain and choked Brad with it with the help of Sullivan and Gary Hart.

Looks like Ivan Koloff will be a baby face anytime soon. Paul Jones is blaming him for not getting rid of the Road Warriors and he wants him to prove himself with Russian Chain matches against Ricky Morton. It looks like this turn will take place in the next couple of weeks.

Another source reporting in tonight on the "minor" detail...I was told it had to do with who would be running the company after Turner bought it. Evidently Crockett and Dusty want to remain in charge which seems to be the most ridiculous request I've heard in a long time. Why would anyone go and spend over a million dollars (reportedly in the eight million dollar range) to keep on the same crew that for all intents and purposes destroyed the product in the first place! If Crockett is serious about this (and nothing says he is as this is just a rumor at this point) it would appear that he isn't really wanting to sell anyway. He wants the money, but not the financial responsibility. That's almost like getting a divorce, then still living with or dating your ex-spouse. Dumb. Flat plain dumb.

September 7th will be the next WTBS Clash of Champions. Check your TV Guide for particulars. I was told the line up very quickly and don't remember what it was, it was that impressive. About the only thing I remember is that Flair and the Road Warriors are not on the card. Dusty still thinks they "give away" too much with this type of show and so he doesn't book anything good. With the TBS show suffering sagging ratings, he obviously needs to give away a few things in order to get his audience back up to par. After all, if you don't have a TV audience, then you certainly don't have people who know about upcoming events.

Magnum TA is doing a Pit Type segment on the World Wide show. I believe they called it "Straight Talk" but it was about 1:00 am when I saw it and my eyes don't function like they should at that time of morning. His first guest was Kendall Windham and Magnum asked him about Barry's turn. Kendall told him that he respected Barry and that if Barry needed him, he'd be there for him.

Also on the syndicated show, Rick Steiner teamed with the Midnight Express and about crushed a jobber's neck with a belly to belly suplex. The interview following was hilarious with Steiner talking about playing football without a helmet and it not hurting him any. Cornette's facial expressions in the background had me on the floor. The interview was totally heel with no mention of the Horsemen, but rather talk about beating up the Road Warriors instead. Looks like the babyface turn will only be for the horsemen bouts.

BIASED REPORTING

I once considered Wrestling Forum to have some of the most honest opinions among the newsletters. However, after the recent reports on Windy City Wrestling, I won't be able to maintain that opinion. Had any other promotion besides them pulled the crap they did at their recent card in Chicago (subbing a rookie against Abdullah, making excuses for the no shows, etc), you would have crucified them in print. Instead, you make Sam DiCero out as some sort of hero, overcoming all the difficulties in producing and promoting a show. You were bought off by a press pass, free information, and probably a cut of gates and souvenirs. Why else would there be a special deal for Forum Subscribers. Windy City is a second rate promotion with a second rate promoter and third and forth rate talent.

-RANDY MCNEELEY-

--Highland Park, IL--

EDITOR: I'm fair with Windy City and Sam DiCero and give them every benefit of the doubt because they have been fair with me and as of this date NEVER lied to me that I can tell. Every other promotion has lied to me openly. If I should ever catch Sam in a lie, you all will be among the first to know. When I am told openly the reason for no shows (as in the case of Nord the Barbarian) instead of being given some BS excuse like "he missed a plane", then I'm inclined to defend the promoter. As for press passes, I have attended one of their shows and I was critical of it. I do not get a cut of the gate or of any souvenirs. This issue contains a plug for their wrestling tape and I said that we have a small bet riding on the response. There is no commission being paid nor is there any "money" riding on the outcome. I just made a prediction of how many people would respond and the prize is who ever wins gets to tell the other, "I told you so." I would not accept money or a payola from them or anyone else. I just try to treat people with the same respect that they treat not only me, but also their fans and paying customers. I respect your opinion, but let's not make accusations you can't back up.

RESPONSE TO THE PHANTOM

I disagree with Ed Garea's view of smart fans. Maybe some are rude calling wrestlers by their real names, egotistical on what they know, have short memories and are gimmick oriented, but not all. I'm a "recent" smart fan and I like to know something personal about the wrestlers, their real names, personalities, etc. because wrestlers are real people portraying a "character" in the ring. Walking up to a wrestler and calling him by his real name and asking questions about the business is rude. I may not agree with those who like keeping wrestling a closed enterprise (wrestlers, promoters, etc.), but it is their right to do in their business what they feel is right and I can respect that.

What has becoming a smart fan meant to me? In short, appreciation! I can enjoy and treat the hi-tech video and gimmicks for what they are, and, concentrate on the wrestling technique, work rate of the matches and basically just the basics of wrestling. I started out refusing to have anything to do with wrestling because of the gimmicks and the senseless violence. I have come to an appreciation of wrestling as a "worked" sport (if there is such a thing). I too (like Ed) look forward to the Summer Olympiocs and Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling is a favorite of mine, even if I only know a small amount of what I'm watching.

My main problem right now is I want to be informed and even newsletters like the Forum and Observer aren't supplying me with that information. I would like to know more about "work rate" and "mat work" the different wrestling holds, etc. There are a thousand questions and I find the more I know only shows me how little I really know.. Will I walk away

from wrestling? Everyone changes so I don't know, but this, I do! With the knowledge I now have comes an appreciation of wrestling I did not have. I love high tech videos, great gimmicks, fabulous personalities and the whole nine yards of that aspect of wrestling. But I'm growing on the basic wrestling too with each piece of knowledge I receive.

So, to Dave Meltzer and Jon Gallagher, I say, give us your opinions, tell us about the new gimmicks, the high spots, and the great wrestling personalities, but give those of us "new" smart fans information to become not just smart fans, but intelligent wrestling fans.

-LYNN BOELTZ-

-Pompano Beach, FL-

Ever since I saw my first wrestling match live, I knew it was "fake". Only the newsletters have opened my eyes to it being a work. I didn't agree with most of what Mr. Garea said in his article. I look down upon the marks (and my definition of a mark is anyone who believes it is real) because anyone who would really think that these guys are out there beating each other to death, then one turns and they're the best of friends has to be a candidate for a brain transplant. I don't spoil it for those people, but I wouldn't associate with them if my life depended on it either.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Philadelphia, PA-

EDITOR: I've often said that I don't have to agree with an article to print it. I understand a lot of what Ed says although through examining myself and my likes and dislikes, I fall into both categories he described. Wrestling has changed over the past few years because of egos and cable TV thus creating a need for high tech stuff. The old style (60-70's) although enjoyable to me, wouldn't sell nationally I don't think.

WWF NEWCOMERS DESERVE CREDIT

Isn't Terry Taylor doing great in the WWF? Well, at least he's playing his role well, but his workrate is already declining. The "Mecca of Manhood" is an awesome nickname! Also, I think credit should be given to the Rockers. Everybody makes such a big deal about DiBiase maintaining a good workrate in the WWF while most of the others dropped theirs. Ted certainly deserves the praise he gets, but Michaels and Jannetty are doing it too. Not to the same extent as Ted simply because they're not as talented as he is (but then, few are). At least in the matches I've seen, they both work well and seem to be getting over.

-DANIEL DELIBERTY-

-Newtown Square, PA-

EMILY

What's all this talk about Jim Crockett not being able to make his balloon payments? Is he really in that bad of financial shape? I don't understand. Balloons don't cost that much. One time I bought some balloons in a bouquet for a friend who was sick and the whole thing only set me back less than ten bucks! Maybe he should buy cheaper balloons. Or maybe he has the same supplier for balloons that the Pentagon does.

The only other thing I can think of is maybe it's a hot air balloon that he's trying to pay off or buy. If that's the case he should only have to pay for the balloon itself and not the filler because he's always has Dusty who can supply that free of charge.

I'll write again soon.

-EMILY LATRELLA-

-New York City-

I'm beginning to like Phil Hickerson a lot. He's my idea of a good old fashioned red necked heel. Now my tapes from FNN are a couple of weeks behind what's actually going on, so some of this may not be real current, but the show is almost enjoyable again. Hickerson is the reason. Hickerson was out doing an interview and Scott Steiner came out to try and get a title match. He offered Phil \$2000 at first then gradually came up to \$5000. The interchange between Phil and Scott was good with Hickerson saying stuff like, "Well, that's enough to get my first name on the contract but not my last." Randy Hales came out and signed the contract with Scott's five grand up against the belt. I'll tell you what happened as soon as I find out.

I finally got to see the party where Robert Fuller gave Brickhouse Brown a watermellon as a present. The skit was well done with you thinking Brown was going to turn on the spot, but he didn't. I understand though, that the anticipated turn came the next week. More on that next issue. This skit also featured a cake and for the only time I can remember, it actually got eaten and didn't wind up on somebody's face.

There are some newcomers to the promotion and this should heat things up a bit. Bill Dundee is back, this time as a bayface. He should feud with Bruno as Bruno is running around calling himself superstar and wearing jumpsuits. That should get Bruno out of Fuller's shadow as the position he's in is not a very effective one.

The Rock and Roll RPM's have returned as well and started off things right by beating Steiner and Billy Travis around the circuit for the Southern Tag championships. The belts changed hands in three or four different cities (Memphis likes to change the title in cities on tour so fans can say they actually saw a title change hands).

Next report will be more indepth as I'm due three hours of tape before deadline...providing the show isn't pre-empted.

One quick thing, they are advertising video tapes on FNN of wrestling's greatest heroes and villains. They claim they retail for \$60, but I found them at Wal-Mart and K-Mart for \$3.95 each. They are "public domain" tapes which means anyone can copy them without a penalty. They offer them at \$50 and I wonder how many have bought.

CONTINENTAL

Things continue to cook down here. They are drawing large houses in several cities and actually outdrew the WWF on consecutive nights. Titan drew less than 800 while the CWF TV taping sold out a 2700 seat arena. Titan personnel are reportedly still scratching their collective heads.

Eddie Gilbert continues to feud with Willie B Hert as Willie B is over like you wouldn't believe. The amazing thing is, Gilbert really hasn't done anything special (outside of attacking Willie's son) to get him over as a face. Perhaps it was just the right time and the right place for Pistol Pez. Willie has also been taking on Paul E Dangerously in boxing matches around the circuit. I would assume that Paul claims to have some expertise in boxing.

I guess when Continental bought out the USA promotion, they didn't buy talent. Some of the talent is headed in like Doug Furnas, but others like the Rock and Roll RPM's have decided to head elsewhere. It surprises me that some wouldn't want to work for the hottest promotion in wrestling right now, but then again, I've heard Eddie and Woods didn't make real solid offers until the talent proved themselves

Rumored to be headed in are two names you might recognize...Bob Orton (who had flat disappeared from wrestling) and Calgary star Brian Pillman.

Supposedly, the CWF will return to FNN by the time you read this. They are pre-empting the show for things like vollyballa dntennis, but I'm told once it establishes itself, it will have a permanent spot.

Finally, the road to Birmingham tournament is scheduled to wrap up the weekend of 10/1. We should have at least a couple of readers at the show so we should have a report in the 10/15 issue.

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING
BY ED GAREA

MISCELLANY _ Now that G.L.O.W. is out of business, where will Vince get his promotional ideas from? Consider that before Wrestlemania IV, G.L.O.W. held a tournament to determine its new champion. Also consider that G.L.O.W. first used the voice-over announcing technique. Never mind that fact that it is becoming harder by the week to tell the two promotions apart except for the obvious fact of gender. However, in the long run, G.L.O.W. may prove to have the most integrity of the two.

For all you alias fans out there, I finally can give you Pat Patterson's real name. Are you ready? Pierre Clermont. Pat's name was the one that had eluded me for the longest. Other aliases on my hit list include Stan Stasiak (the latter), Siegfried Stanke, Eric Froelich, Tank Morgan, Moon Man, King Kong Frankenstein, the original Dino Bravo, and Karl Von Hess. Anyone who has the real names of these wrestlers please contact me through Jon. Also, leave your address so that I may get in touch with you to thank you.

Wrestling is nearly dead in England, and that is very sad indeed. There are lessons to be learned here, as this could very easily happen in the states. At one time, wrestling was the hit of television and attendance was booming. But a combination of factors such as the constant shifting of the wrestling television time slot, the top star, Big Daddy, being way past his prime and continuing to push himself (besides being the brother of the promoter), and the scandals over the death of King Kong Kirk and Tony Marino all contributed to the demise of the sport. Add on the fact that such wrestlers as Wild Red Berry, Greg Valentine, and Blackjack Mulligan were advertised to appear and in reality were English jobbers, not the real items, only added salt to the wound. American promoters, are you listening?

P.O.W.W. without G.L.O.W. "honkytonk" is D.U.L.L....Eddie Gilbert is without a doubt the best booker in the country right now, especially when one considers what paucity of talent he has to work with....Paul Vachon running for office in Montreal...Tully Blanchard may be the constant underrated wrestler working in the U.S. today. Ironically, overexposure is responsible...Whatever happened to Haystack Muldoon?... For that matter, whatever happened to Laurent Soucie?... Trivia question: Before he gained fame as the Zebra Kid, Gorge Bollas worked under the hood under a different name. Who was he? Jon will supply the answer later in this issue.

Editor's notes: Ed is NOT trying to become our "Heel Columnist" like the Late Dan Shocket or the current Eddie Elner of PWI. Ed has free hand of anything he wants to write about and sometimes it is controversial. Othertimes, it's just plain informative. If you have a subject, especially concerning wrestling history, send along your suggestions to Wrestling Forum here in Knoxville. I'll pass them along to Ed. Even if it's just one question, this man can turn that into an entire column. Let us know what you want to see here.

ANSWERING MACHINE MANIA

For a spur of the moment thing that we threw together just to fill a page a couple of issues back, we sure received a bunch of positive response. So, take a walk with us to the lighter side of wrestling with a couple of readers and myself as we check out the messages that wrestlers MIGHT leave on their answering machines:

Leading off is Dan Schnitzer of Baltimore MD...

RIC FLAIR: Wooohh, you have just reached the offices of five times world Heavyweight wrestling champion, the nature Boy Ric Flair! Right now, I'm riding space mountain along with my many beautiful women as only I can do! Just remember, Diamonds are forever and so is Ric Flair and so is your message you leave at the tone (BEEP).

RANDY SAVAGE: Ooooh Yeah! This is the undisputed World Wrestling Federation champion Randy "Macho Man" Savage and my manager Elizabeth! We're not home right now, no we're not, no. But as soon as I walk through that front door tonight after my three title defenses in Boston, New York and Baltimore, Liz and I will return your call, Yeah! (BEEP)

HONKY TONK MAN: Thank you very much for calling the greatest Intercontinental Champion of all time ladies and gentlemen. You're a beautiful caller and I love ya! Don't worry. I won't disappoint you, I know what you wanna hear, so at the sound of the beep, just let the Honky Tonk Man know if you want to hear him sing or play the guitar! Thank you for supporting the greatest Intercontinental Champion of all time! I love you! (BEEP)

VINCE MCMAHON: Hello everyone, my answering machine comes to you this week from Greenwich, CT, home of the WWF. This is Vince McMahon sitting along side of Jesse the Body Ventura planning our next idea of strategy against Jim Crockett Promotions. If you have any suggestions, leave them at the beep (BEEP).

Up second for us this issue is Fred Naarisma, who is also from Baltimore (must be something in the water out there).

BARON VON RASCHKE: You have reached the residence of the Clawmaster. Leave a message at the tone. Dat is all you need to know (BEEP).

JIMMY GARVIN: Hey, this is Gorgeous Jimmy and I'm feelin' good!!! My squeeze and I aren't available at the moment and IT'S NOT MY FAULT! So leave a message at the tone! (BEEP)

JIMMY SNUKA: This...is the....Superfly, brother...There is...only one thing.... I would like to...mention, brother...Leave...a message... at the tone, brother... (BEEP)

And from the demented mind of your editor:

VERNE GAGNE: I made this message for you, but Stanly Blackburn called and said there was just one small itsy bitsy detail I had to work out before I could play it for you. Leave me a message at the beep and I'll have Al DeRusha call you back. (BEEP).

JERRY LAWLER: Hi! This here's the King, Jerry Lawler and I'm probably not here right now cos I'm just plain too busy defendin' this here AWA World title. In fact, I'm so busy, I met MYSELF coming in today, just as I was going out. Man, now that's busy. Anyway, leave a message at the tone, unless this is Verne or Grey, in which case the answer is still NO!!! (BEEP)

PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE: Let me tell you something about this message and your response. The time you have is NOT three minutes, it's only two minutes. I'm not here right now, I'm off applying for a job as a model for a new magazine called Slim and Trim. So leave a message at the sound of the dinner bell, er ah, tone. (Boing)

ANDRE THE GIANT: Yu av reached de ome o' Andre ze gian'. I om notome a da present momont, bu' if you leav a message out duh sond dove ze tone, i wuld get bock to yu az zoon az I getome. (even the beep has a tone defect).

HULK HOGAN: Well you know Curious Caller, the twenty four inch pythons aren't here right now but it won't be long before they're back! All you little hulkamaniacs have to do to be just like the Hulkster though is to eat your veggies, say your prayers, and leave a message at the sound of the tone (BEEP).

JESSE VENTURA: Well ya know there's not a whole lot of people I want to talk to and I don't know how you got this number. So here's the message for those who might call...Arnie, Sure I'll be in your next movie, just send the contract along. McMahon, sit down. I'll be there as soon as I can. Bruno, save yourself some time and just call Dial-an-Insult. There ain't gonna be no beep cause I don't wanna listen to no wimps who want me to return their call!

GREG GAGNE: Hello, Vince? Oh, sorry, I forgot. This is the answering machine. Well, this week's answering machine message comes from St. Louis MO, even though it sounds like it's coming from Minneapolis. Leave your message at the sound of the tone and when I get back from Greenwich (*&%*# ! I'll have to cut that out later) I'll return your call. (BEEP)

HACKSAW DUGGAN: Hiyooooooo! Let me tell ya somethin' right now! I ain't here right now, so leave your name and number at the tone and I'll call ya back, tough guy! (Beep).

RON BASS: Hey! This is no talent Ron Bass here. I ain't here, but I just want you all to know I still have the negatives and unless you give me what I want like a push, the Weekly World News is going to have some very interesting copy next week. Understand? So be nice and leave a message cos I know there's a negative with you in it somewhere here.

MICHAEL HAYES: You got him! Purely Sexy Michael PS hayes, rockin', rollin' and partying down on the phone. I ain't here right now at this very minute, but all ya gots to do is to leave a message on the tape and I'll get back to you. Hey, the messages bet badder as we go down the tape and yours is gonna be the last one on the left.

DAVID CROCKETT: Hey! Look at this! A Call! for me! I mean...uh! I can't believe it! you better leave a message, now. I'm not kidding you either. I mean...uh!

MR FUJI: Ah so, Mister Caller-son. You have reached the greatest mind in professional wrestling. I'm not here right now; I'm off begging Mr McMahon-son to start up honorable TNT again so I can be assured of honorable job-son. Leave message at tone, please. (GONG).

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH

August 1988

There wasn't an overabundance of candidates this month for our coveted Dipstick award this month although Jim Crockett managed to get himself nominated twice.

The first nomination revolves around his reluctance to sell his wrestling promotion. While this is America and Free Enterprise is the basis of our founding roots, Mr. Crockett should decide whether or not he is going to Deficate, or get off the pot. He has the money part of the sale pretty well worked out, but cold feet and second thoughts are not only hurting fans who want to see a change, but it is affecting the lives of a couple dozen wrestlers who could be earning a living somewhere else if he decides not to sell. Still, this is not ample enough reason to select Mr. Crockett for the Dipstick.

Steve Williams is also a candidate based on his arraignment for drug charges. Not so much for being caught, but for carrying the stuff right on him in his sock and in his pocket. Nice goin' Steve. but I'm afraid that even this foolhardy act doesn't get you the award.

The winner this month is Jim Crockett and almost the whole NWA. The promoted at certain Bashes that those persons buying the \$50 seats would have a reception with the wrestlers before the show. In most of the early cases it was preliminary guys who showed up, not stars like the fans had been led to believe. Jim Crockett may not be the right person to give the award to, but certainly, if he is in charge of things should be well aware of what is happening and who is showing up to the scheduled events.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH

August 1988

And on the other side of the coin there are those with in the organization who right a wrong as soon as they see or hear about it. Such is the case of Gary Juster, the promoter for the NWA. He made amends to those who called and felt ripped off. He made sure throughout the rest of the BASH tour that the stars made appearances at the receptions along side of the preliminary guys. It's nice to see someone who is as fan oriented as him in the organization and hopefully if the sale of the NWA eventually goes through, Ted Turner will find a spot for someone like Juster. The business need someone like him.

Runner up this month goes to Frank the Tank Melson of the Windy City wrestling group. Frank was a last minute VOLUNTEER replacement to step in the ring with Abdullah the Butch, not exactly the easiest task in wrestling, when Nord the Barbarian no showed the Amphitheatre show. Frank wound up getting the holy snot beat out of him and had to go to the hospital with the blade job he performed on himself. Frank has been wrestling for less than six months and still had no qualms about working with Abby. That's not to say what his opinion of Abby is now....

INDEPENDENTS

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

by Dave Sinden

ICW continues to build and improve, as proven by recent outings. On August 19 in Waterville, ME, Jumping Joe Savoldi pinned Moondog Spike to become the ICW heavyweight champion. Two referees officiated the bout, Tom "the Mediator" Fornini and Scott Dickinson with Dickinson working the inside, the Mediator outside. At one point, Fornini pushed Savoldi off Spike (Joe was pounding on Spike in the corner). The climax came when Spike missed a third tackle on Savoldi and smashed into Dickinson. With the ref down, Fornini went to the apron but was also KO'd when Joe dropkicked Spike into him. Joe then rolled Spike up and when Dickinson came to, the three count was tolled and there was a new champion crowned. Savoldi also hold the ICW tag team belts with Vic Steamboat.

Last time we mentioned that Cheetah Kid had won the junior title from Eric Sbraccia. It appears that Cheetah has left (or been fired) as Sbraccia is still walking around with the belt and Cheetah is missing.

There have been a series of 10 girl "Royal Rumble" style battle royals with the winner facing the ladies champ Heidi Lee Morgan that night. Morgan has been beating all foes however.

Current feuds are: Tony Atlas vs Dungeon Master and Steamboat vs Sbraccia.

Gustov the Giant has returned and is winning handicap bouts with Boston Bad Boy and Lou Fabiano. Some new faces rumored to be coming in include Samoan Afa, Jules Strongbow, Chris Adams, and Bam Bam Bigelow.

WINDY CITY WRESTLING

Windy City returns to the Chicago International Amphitheatre on September 30th with a lineup that at least looks good on paper. We've got the battle of the Bam Bam's with Gordy taking on Bigelow in the main event. If that one can be pulled off, Chicago wrestling could be back to making a spot on the map. Also lined up are the Original Midnight Express with Eddie Gilbert (sorry guys, but I'll still believe that when I see it...I just can't see a booker taking a Friday night off from his own territory) against the Terminators and a mystery partner. Also we've got Col. DeBeers against Steve Regal in what they are calling a "reverse lumberjack match." If I understand it correctly, wrestlers will be stationed outside the ring with baseball bats to make sure that no one else gets in to the ring to interfere. As always, if you would like to attend this show, contact either Jeff Siegel at (312) 491-1698 or Sam DiCero at (312) 978-7317 for special Forum reader seating (I understand Sam is holding front row this time for our readers...and does that tell you something about this promotion...INVITING smart fans to sit in the front row!!!!).

Windy City has also just come out with a half hour video tape featuring Bruiser Brody's last known taped match. The tape features his bout against Nord the Barbarian taped from the Amphitheatre a couple of months ago that was a wild brawl, plus a Terminator's squash match and a Danzer Zone that has never before been seen. Price for the tape is \$29.95 and to order, send to WINDY CITY WRESTLING PROMOTIONS INC, BOX 170048, Chicago, IL 60617-0048. Please tell them that you found out about it from the Forum as we have a small bet riding on the responses.

GLOBAL

Still no correspondent from this area but we'll try to get back on track next time. If you'd like to help out, just let me know.

Let's start off with a rumor or some speculation at least before getting into the Pay Per View show or the latest set of TV tapings. Last night (8/27) the WWF was in Philadelphia for a show. The wrestlers stay at the Marriot there. After the show, a surprise guest showed up at the hotel...none other than JJ Dillion. Crockets guys worked Charlotte that night so they weren't in the area. We do know that JJ has family in the Philly area, but we assume that if there had been a family emergency, he would have stayed with that family. Second point that bring us to assuming things we probably shouldn't: The Titan wrestlers all checked out of the hotel by 7:00 am. So did JJ. Hmmm. The speculation of who Brother Love's guest will be just added one more name to the list (they are claiming that it is someone who has never worked for Titan before and JJ did work for them for a short time...one show from MSG that a remember - probably pre 1984 - had him challenging Tito Santana for the Intercontinental belt).

I'm doing this part of the report on Sunday just so you have some sort of time reference. It looks like Ultimate Warrior is going to take the intercontinental belt from Honky Tonk tomorrow night from what happened at the TV tapings this past week in Providence RI and Hartford CT. Here's what happened: The Providence show opened with Honky Tonk coming out with the IC belt and challenging anyone to wrestle him. Ultimate Dingbat comes out and basically squashes him in about three minutes. Howard Finkel then announces Dingbat as the "NEEEEEW" IC champ.

The first clue that something was fishy here was that the TV cameras weren't rolling during this "historic bout." But, they went ahead with the charade. HTM comes out at the end of the first hour of tapings and is announced as the former champ. He tells the audience he needs their support now more than ever. In the second hour of tapings, Dingbat is announced for his match as the champ. Midway through the third hour, Jack Tunney comes out and tells the arena audience (not taped) that the IC match had been ruled invalid and the champ was still HTM.

Here's the detective work that's been done: These Superstars shows are scheduled for airing AFTER Summerslam. Dingbat must win the title tomorrow night because they needed a way to let HTM appear on the tapings as a former champ and a way to intro Dingbat as the new champ. I guess that Dingbat will replace Brutus Beefcake in his match with HTM on Scam. My thanks to Ron Lemieux, Dan Reilly and Anthony Parillo for filling us in on all the proceedings and for doing the detective work for us.

Other happenings during the TV tapes include Rick Rude pulling off his wrestling trunks to reveal his Cheryl Roberts trunks underneath. Jake hits the ring and pulls those off Rude leaving him in his underwear.

In the second hour, the Rougeau (FABULOUS Rougeau) Brothers are on the Craig DeGeorge interview spot and they announce that they're new manager is Jimmy Hart. Owen Hart also appeared in the second hour working with Barry Horowitz and wearing a mask. They have changed his name once again to Blue Laser.

The third hour offered a bit of a surprise Powers of Pain came to ringside with their new manager "The Baron." Yep. Baron Von Raschke complete with a hooded robe and face paint. I guess this is as good a sign as any that Oliver Humperdink is history.

Also, Demolition appears on the third hour of tapings with the belts so that should quell any rumors of them losing tomorrow night.

And finally, before getting to the PPV report, best bets for Brother Love's guest is Sugar Ray Leonard. Titan has agreed to handle the PPV on Leonard's Thanksgiving fight so it would only make sense that he would get the spot. I'm told that Ray will be on hand Monday night whether or not he gets the spot.

On to the PPV. I might add here that Sean has fourth row ringside for this one. I tried to offer him great sums of money to pull the string on Liz's bikini, but he insisted that he needs his left arm for the rest of his life. Oh well.

The card started off with the Rougeau Brothers against the Bulldogs. Davey Boy Smith looks like someone has inserted an air pump somewhere on him and blown him up. He did a nice move when Jacques tried to monkey flip him out of the corner. Instead of landing on his back, he let his momentum take him over in a cartwheel and then with Rougeau still on his back, DB was already on his feet (excuse me it was Raymond). Dogs controlled the first part of the match before the Rougeaus started working on DB's legs. Dynamite got a hot tag and did mostly offense. I thought they might be protecting his back, but he did a snap suplex that always gives me goose bumps when I see him do it. A nice move I've never seen before had DK with Raymond in the corner. DK was standing on the second rope pounding him and Jacques snuck in from behind and gave him a belly to back suplex. Kid hit hard. It was then kill-Dynamite-for-the-next-few-minutes time. Most of the time it was one of the Rougeaus with an abdominal stretch on Kid. Finally, another hot tag, with DB highlighting the action by putting one of the brothers (by this time I can't tell which) in a press slam, then dropping him, crotch first on the top rope. All four men were in the ring and the referee was trying to restore order when the Bulldogs did their own press slam into a head butt. Just as DK covered Jacques, the bell rang for a time limit draw. Good opener, but nothing special. I gave it a C+. After the match while asking for the obligatory five more minutes, the Brothers sucker punched the Dogs and they all ran back to the dressing room.

Squash time. Bad News Brown vs Ken Patera. Bad News attacked before the bell (Brown looks like he hasn't been missing too many meals while working here). Patera made a quick comeback that was shortlived. Brown beat on Patera like a TV jobber and Patera made another comeback.

Patera's offense is too light. Brown wouldn't really sell the stuff that looked bad which made it look better. Patera went to a bear hug for a rest then to the full nelson, but Brown got to the ropes. Patera went for the nelson again, and Brown made it to the ropes again. (isn't this exciting?!?) After a couple of pitiful Irish whips (How in the world do you mess up an Irish whip?) Brown caught Patera with the enzuigeri and got a clean pin. Short, but not short enough. Grade D-.

I worried about Rick Rude. I can understand him having Cheryl Roberts' face spray painted on his trunks, but the Junk Yard Dog's?!? Rude let JYD do his crawling headbutt early (first thing) to get it out of the way. After a flurry of opening high spots. Dog blew up and Rude had to rely on chin locks and arm bars. Rude put Dog down and went to the top ropes and pulled down his tights revealing trunks with Cheryl painted on them. Guess what happened next? Yep. Jake hit the ring and chased out Rude. Rude won via DQ and thank God this one didn't last very long. Grade D+. Rude and Jake were good while it lasted, but that wasn't long.

At this point I'm questioning my intelligence for paying \$15 for this charade. Then I remind myself it's tax deductible.

The Bolsheviks vs Powers of Pain. Typical Warrior entrance. Baron was in their corner. Typical Warriors match (circa 1984-85) with the Powers not selling anything unless it was a choke in the corner. After Barbie got a hot tag, it was all over as they destroyed Boris. Barbie did his flying head butt from the top rope for the finisher. Not bad, considering who was in the ring, but still only a C-.

They then announced the Survivor Series II for Thanksgiving night. The Leonard-LaLonde fight is November 7.

Here's the mystery about to be solved. Brother Love's guest was: Hacksaw Duggan?!? Huh? Basically a waste of about seven minutes or so. So long Honky Tonk. Due to an injury (I started typing when Dingbat hit the ring and the match is over already...does that tell you how quick it was) Beefcake could not wrestle. HTM challenged anyone, Dingbat hit the ring and HTM never even got his jumpsuit off. The match went 30 seconds if that and there's no way to rate that.

At this point I'm thinking of revoking Jim Crockett's Dipstick award and giving it to McMahon. They have turned this broadcast into a commercial for future pay per view events! They spent a bunch of time interviewing Sugar Ray and Donald Velonze then topped that off with a five minute intermission. This is a crock!

Follow this all with a Dino Bravo Don Muracco match. They tried to take our minds off the agony by putting Heenan in the announcer's booth but it didn't help. Muracco looked like he wanted to work early but for some reason (I'll give you a hint...his initials are Dino Bravo) he lost interest. The end came with an accidental ref bump (he didn't stay down but half a second) when Muracco tried to body slam Dino. Bravo slid out and gave him a side slam and got the clean pin. I'm generous when I give this match a D-.

Hart Foundation vs Demolition. Please don't disappoint me! Early in the match, Bret misses a shoulder block in the corner and for the next few minutes, Demolition worked on that shoulder. Can the WWF actually be having a match that tries to tell a story?

Back to the match in a minute. The announcing team of Gorilla and Superstar is as bad as anything I've ever heard. Example: In the opener, one of the Rougeaus went flying out of the ring and Gorilla says, "Right out onto that concrete" as the guy lands softly on the pads surrounding the ring. If they'd have brought in Lee Marshall, Ron Truongard and Mark Lowrance, the announcing couldn't have been much worse!

Back to the match. MSG is sold out for this and until the hot tag to Neidhart, they were dead as dead could be. Neidhart did a slingshot over the top rope outside the ring into the waiting arms of Smash. From this point the match got decent. They forgot about Bret's bad shoulder. The end came with all four guys in the ring. Neidhart went after Fuji and started hammering him. The ref was busy trying to separate them as Bret tried to put Smash in a piledriver. Jimmy Hart comes running back to ringside with the megaphone and tosses it to Axe. He hits Bret and the ref turns back around and counts Bret out. The match wasn't bad after the hot tag, but it didn't go long after that. The last half didn't save the first half and it gets a C.

More damn commercials for the boxing match. Going a bit overboard aren't we guys?

Bossman vs Koko. How bout that! They actually let Koko do some offense. He drokkicked Bossman and he tied his arms in the ropes while Koko did a splash into his belly (if Superstar sez "Brother" one more time, I'm going to throw up). Here's another announcing gem, this time courtesy of Superstar: "Koko looks like he's out on his feet, Gorilla" while Koko is prone on the mat. Koko did some more offensive moves including a great dropkick off the top rope that looked spectacular. The match didn't last much longer though as Bossman caught him with a side slam of sorts. Better than I expected and it gets a B-.

After seeing an interview with Dingbat and his new title. I think someone has been practicing voodoo on a likeness of him and aiming the needles at the head. This man has a fried brain!

Jake the Snake vs Hercules Hernandez. The match started off okay, but then they went to the endless restholds usually reserved for Wrestlemania. At this point I'm fed up with Gorilla and Superstar so I've turned down the sound. Any further announcing gems will go forever unrecorded. Jake got the clean win with a DDT. Herc even got the snake draped over him. Let's grade this one a C- for the rest holds.

Next up was a recap of the Megapowers-Megabucks feud. They did something I missed. Jesse was a guest on Brother Love's segment and Andre, Heenan, Virgil and Ted came out and stuffed hundred dollar bills in Jesse's pocket. Somehow I've got a feeling the way they treated him will be a big part of the outcome of the match.

The beginning of the match was interesting. Jesse exerted his power as ref by changing the corners the tag ropes were in. He and Hogan had a few word. Savage and Hogan argued a bit about who would start the match and Hogan finally let Randy go against Andre. That lasted less than ten seconds as Andre tagged Ted. Ted wants Hogan so Savage tags him in. Jesse's first confrontation with the faces didn't take long. Hogan atomic dropped Ted and he did the thing where he bounced back and forth between Randy and Hulk getting punched by each. Jesse stepped in to stop Macho Man, but Randy pushed him out of the way and punched again. Jesse then showed his impartiality by ordering Heenan down from the ring apron. Savage and Hogan kept tagging in and out (what did you expect with Andre as one of the partners?). When Andre did tag in, he did what he does best. He sat down. Repeatedly. On Hogan's chest. From there he went to the choke hold which Jesse called a nerve hold. Hogan spent a while getting killed. DiBiase had him in a reverse chin lock until Hogan began to Hulk out. The hit each other with a clothesline, but Hogan was up first and got the tag to Randy. Savage and Ted worked the match they've been working across the country from there. Great stuff. Andre comes in and rump smashes Randy in the corner. Enough of that and Ted's back in. Randy is being destroyed and gets the tag. Andre comes in, but Hulk catches him with a clothesline. Savage in and Hulk directs him to the turnbuckles for a flying elbow on the Giant. Hulk slaps a sleeper on DiBiase and Randy comes off. Andre raises a foot and Randy gets it in the chin and goes flying out of the ring. Hogan is attacked from behind by Andre. The babyfaces are both dropped outside the ring. Now it gets confusing. Jesse starts counting the faces out. DiBiase and Giant are both in the ring. Liz jumps up on the ring apron. So does Heenan and Virgil. Jesse looks like he's about ready to give up and Liz peels off her skirt. Jesse looks helpless. On the outside Hulk and Savage are recovering and sneaks in they clean house with Savage coming off the ropes taking care of Andre and Hogan going after Ted. Andre falls out of the ring and Randy mounts the ropes after Hulk slams Ted. A flying elbow followed by Hogan's leg bomb (the top, Liz! The top!) and Jesse goes to count the fall. he counts one...two and hesitates three. Randy grabs his arm and brings it down for the third time (Liz! The top!) Match was great with Ted and Randy in and Hogan tried. Andre looked like he was putting out as much as he could too. Jesse really didn't add to nor take away from the match. I gave the match a C+, mainly for effort.

I guess you can tell from the report, I didn't like the show. No angles came out of it, no turns took place, Brother Love's guest was a joke, and I feel I wasted \$15.00 (tax deduction, Jon, Tax deduction).

I've got room for just a little interesting tidbit from the TV tapings. In one match Jake the Snake takes on George South. In another bout, Sam Houston is involved in a tag match opposing George South (south you'll remember as a Crockett jobber). Interesting match ups because George is a brother to both Jake and Sam.

Lots of Crockett jobbers have been showing up on Titan telecasts as of late. No big deal, as they have to eat too.

Just a little more room? let me explain the "brother" comments by so many wrestlers, mainly Graham. Wrestlers consider themselves a brotherhood due to the closed nature of the business. They often call each other brother and some have a habit of saying it too much. Graham is obviously one of them.

Titan said they were going to be happy with a 4% buyrate. They should have gotten that easily. Problem is, a buyrate like that for a crappy show like this will only encourage them to do crappy shows in the future. it's a dismal thought.

PULSE ON PORTLAND
BY GREG ANDERSON

As I began this column, the Grappler was hot to regain his Northwest title from Scott Peterson and they hyped an 8/16 rematch (a special Tuesday night Portland card) on the 8/13 Portland show. During a Southern Rockers interview, Grappler came up and argued with Scott a bit and then slapped him! Afterwards, Grappler got into the ring and demanded the title match right then and there. Peterson came out and they began brawling. The battle spilled outside and Peterson battered his foe into the crowd and to the dressing room.

Col. Debeers and Art Barr faced off in their "first to break a rule loses" match. As I predicted last issue, Debeers spit on Art and Barr unleashed a punching batrage on the Col. until Father-ref Sandy Barr restrained him. Sandy had no choice but to DQ. his son and award the bout to Debeers.

In the opening bout this night, Mike Golden whipped Avalanche into the ropes and the turnbuckle snapped off the ringpost! Avalanche was lucky he didn't fly headfirst onto the floor. Back in the seventies in Portland, Randy Morse had the same thing happen to him but he wasn't able to break his fall and went head-first to the concrete. Morse laid on the floor for something like ten minutes with other wrestlers coming out not knowing if they should even touch him. You could tell it was not a work as there was concern in the faces of the wrestlers that came out, including ref Sandy Barr.

On the Tuesday special (8/16), Debeers won the tournament to decide the TV Champion by beating Doll in the final match. The winner of the tourney was to defend the belt the following Saturday but Debeers did not show. The match was rescheduled for 8/27 with Doll as challenger and if Debeers does not show up then Doll will be awarded the title via forfeit.

I do believe I'm on a roll with my predictions (although the first one was easy to figure) as Top Gun debuted on 8/20 and is indeed Dave Sierra. Buddy Rose is the one complaining as he had defeated Assassin in the loser-leaves bout. Rose came out later in a mask claiming to be the real Top Gun and challenged Sierra to a match where the winner would be the one who could unmask his opponent. The stupid part was where Rose said that whenever he unmasked Sierra, everyone would know it was the Assassin, and he would have to leave again. Anyway the match takes place on 8/27 and will be the dark match of the card. It is true that the Assassin did unmask twice before matches against Rip Oliver to draw big houses so I guess Rose's statement wasn't so dumb.

OTHER NOTES: The shocking co-operation between Owen and Crockett continues as Ric Flair has been signed to defend the NWA title in Portland on 9/20! This could be interesting because I have a feeling that booker Len Denton will give himself the shot and we will get to see Flair wrestle as a face, which is what smart fans have been calling for a long time... the fans are now bringing cigarette lighters to ringside in order to warn the ref whenever Al Madril prepares to throw fire. I just hope some nut doesn't burn the place down!...As of this writing, all indications are that the OWF is history forever. Now it has been reported that a guy named Mel Saraceno is starting a promotion called the Oregon Wrestling Association and will have Rip Oliver and Mike Miller co-booking as well as performing and will also employ many of the men who were working for the OWF....Dusty Rhodes is interested in bringing Avalanche in to Crockett country, which would mean the premature demise of the Beach Boys...Owen is also trying to get the Road Warriors to appear for him later this fall. One can only speculate how long this co-operation will last....

I want to cover the Ken Mantell "firing" before we get in to the news from this area. Last issue we had reported that he had been fired/walked out which we found strange since Mantell had reportedly bought the promotion eight months ago. Apparently, from what we are able to piece together, Mantell had bought the promotion, but was making payments to the Von Erichs. The Von Erichs started exerting pressure including the fact that most of the titles in the promotion were around the waists of the Von Erich family. With them involving themselves more and more, office problems built to the point of eruption and Mantell began withholding payments. This allowed the Von Erichs to have him removed as he "defaulted" on his agreement. Mantell reportedly had a bunch of capital tied up in the promotion and is not happy about losing it, but rather than to see what he has worked for destroyed, he is leaving and is going to let the courts decide the fate of his investment. In the meantime, Mantell will reportedly start another promotion, but not in the state of Texas. No word on where that will be.

Meanwhile the Von Erich domination of the strans have come to an end. Kevin dropped the Texas title to Iceman Parsons without even wrestling him. Kevin, who has a problem finding the arena on nights he's scheduled to lose titles. didn't make it for some reason and was replaced by Kerry. Kerry did the job for Iceman and the promotion allowed the title to change ruling that a champion can appoint anyone he chooses to defend the title for him on a given night.

Also, the Samoan Swat Team have captured the Tag titles from the Von Erichs. Not a good month for the clan. I guess.

Kerry also lost his Worth-Las title to Jerry Lawler in Memphis, but it was never revealed to Texas fans. Kerry was pinned with his foot on the ropes, but Lawler didn't know it. When Lawler saw a tape of it, he returned the title to Kerry saying he hadn't won it fairly.

Nothing in the way of new talent this time around. Things are starting to get stale and that's partially a reason for all the title changes. Big rumor is that if Crockett sells, this is where Dusty is headed. He just bought a house in Dallas (guess who got his balloon payment) and that is also part of the reason Mantell was forced out. As I said, this is just rumor.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

Remember last issue I said we had a new way of processing results? Yeah. We'll go back to the old way.

8/5 SPRINGFIELD, MA (WWF) courtesy of Ron Lemeiux & Dan Reilly....Bossman over Poffo (ZZZZ)... Powers of Pain over Bolsheviks (B)...Ron Bass beat Koko (D)...Savage over DiBiase via DQ (A).... ..HTM pinned Beefcake (c-)...Iron Sheik beat Scott Casey (ZZZZ)....Demolition beat Bulldogs (B)...NOTES: Attendance 2700....the heels attacked Savage as he had Liz on his shoulders... they did Jimmy Hart as Peggy Sue here...Crowd loves Powers...Barbie looks good.

8/5 BALTIMORE (WWF) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma... Terry Taylor beat Tony Garea...Hart Foundation beat Rougeau brothers by DQ...King Haku defeated Sam Houston...Jake Roberts pinned Rick Rude... George Steele beat Danny Davis by COR...Bad News Brown over Tito Sanatan...Andre beat Duggan... NOTES: Attendance: 6000...Garea subbed for no show Jerry Allen...Hogan was originally scheduled for this card vs Brown, but they changed it the last week...no explanation...Rude-Roberts best match of the night...Jake won with a small package.

8/6 DESOTA KS (WWA) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert... ..Missing link drew Grim Reaper...Solomon Grundy beat Top Gun Mike Stone...Mike George pinned Ric McCord....Tommy Gilbert downed Vince Appollo... NOTES: Attendance 48....you read it right, forty eight fans...Mike George has now bleached his hair but looks to be in great shape...

8/19 COLUMBUS, NJ (IND) - courtesy of John McAdam... Chief Thunder Mountain beat Boy Gone Bad (indian strap match)...Tom Brandi/Larry Winters DCOR Frankie the Angel/the Blaster...Jungle Jim Mc-Phearson over Tony Hit Man Stetson...Sonny Austin drew Dizzy Desmond...Mystery Man beat Bad Boy Bobby/Steve Snakely (handicap match)...Paul Starr beat Blue Mask...midget match, Great Martine over Frankie "third degree" Burns...NOTES: Attendance: 350...this was an outdoor card and

was held in a torrential downpour...matches
not graded because mat was too slippery to be
fair..Sonny Austin was impressive...Mystery
Man good for a big man and he moves quite well...
most of the guys were students at Larry Shapre's
Monster Factory

8/20 PHILADELPHIA (NWA) - courtesy of Jammie Ward...Rotundo/Steiner drew Ron Simmons/Brad Armstrong (good)...Fantastics beat Shepherders...Sting/Brad/Morton/Doc beat Tully/Arn/Perez/Zbyszko (excellent)...Warriors beat Midnight Express by DQ...Barry over Nikita by COR...Dusty beat Assassin...Flair beat Lex by DQ...NOTES: Fantastics-Sheeps a solid match with the flagpole finish...Sting pinned Z in eight man...Doc did Duggan impression with "HI-yooo"...Sting over big time in Philly...Express got cheers until crowd found out who opponents were...racquet for DQ end.

See, this guy is trying to convince me to buy a computer. I don't trust computers, but was convinced to at least try. We put the results on some sort of disc. It wouldn't give them back. So much for investing in one of those for a while...can you imagine it not wanting to give back 28 pages?!?!

TOP TEN THINGS I HATED ABOUT SUMMERSCAM...

1. Boxing commercials...2 Superstar Graham's constant use of the word "brother"...3. Superstar's overall commentary...4. Gorilla's commentary...5. Brother Love Segment...6. Dingbat's interview... 7. Patera... 8. We didn't get to see the top... 9. Survivor Series commercials... 10. I wasted \$15.00

I understand Jim Duggan was a last minute replacement on the Brother Love's segment. I'm told that Jessica Hahn backed out a couple days before, Sugar Ray refused to do that interview, and Hennig was already back in Minneapolis. Duggan was brought in at 4:00 Monday afternoon. If the show seemed disorganized, I'm told, it was. We'll have more next time including YOUR reactions (and if anyone actually liked the show, please write!).

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Trivia time...we wanted to know last issue who was the first football player eliminated from the battle royal at Wrestlemania II and who did it. The answer is Jim "Jimbo" Covert of the Bears and he and King Tonga (now King Haku) tumbled ever so gentle over the top rope to the arena floor, much to the relief of Bears front office personnel. This issue's question comes from Sean Ryan and for once, there will be a prize given for the first correct answer. Sean asks, "When did the first non-tournament, singles match between Antonio Inoki and Tatsumi Fujinami take place?" Mail your answer to SEAN RYAN, BOX 142983, ANCHORAGE, AK 99514. Sean has put together a prize package for the winner and he will announce the winner and the answer next time in this section. Good Luck.

To cover the FORUMBUCKS Promotion I promised last time, you will receive one Forumbuck for each issue you get a friend to subscribe to the bulletin for. For example, if you get a friend to subscribe for ten issues, you get ten Forumbucks. Here is a partial list of what's available and the cost of each in Forumbucks. Those who participate will receive a full listing when I send the Forumbucks out to you... You may extend your own Wrestling Forum subscription for one issue for just four (4) FORUMBUCKS. Video tapes, courtesy of John McAdam will be fifty (50) Forumbucks. We've got some old programs available and also back issues of the Forum and they will go for varying amounts. You can even buy you 1988 Yearbook for seventy Forumbucks. The promotion will run from now until January 1, 1989, so there's plenty of time to build your Forumaccount full of forumbucks. I should also mention that gift subscriptions (Hey, Christmas is a lot closer than you think) will also count in the promotion. I can't stress enough though...make sure your friend mentions your name while subscribing so we can credit you with the proper amount of Forumbucks.

On a related subject, last issue we reported 209 subscribers which was down from a previous high of 232. Oops! I forgot to count a whole bunch of subscribers who had been processed but separated from the rest while waiting the dreaded red and green labels to be done. Last issue we actually had 226. This time, we're hanging close as of Sunday the 28th with 223.

Here's a reader request: MIKE SALARDINO Box 602, Martinsville, NJ 08836 is looking for a regular supplier for New Japan and All Japan tapes and also June through the present of the Continental show. Write to him and work out details.

A correction from last issue...we reported Larry Zbyszko was AWA bound and alter bound with Gagne daughter Donna. Wrong. Everything looks to be proceeding as we had heard, only it's Kathy, not Donna. We almost caused a family feud with the mixing up of those names.

¶ Memphis convention update: Things continue to proceed smoothly. The next (summer) edition of the Scrapbook should be finished up finally this next weekend and will contain the ballot for the Ring of Immortals balloting. Time has been our biggest enemy, but the help and offer of the same have been outstanding. Anyone interested in joining Jeff Siegel, Steve Sims and Lance Levine here in Knoxville on October 1 to put the finishing touches on the convention is welcome. Call me for details.

Look soon for a tabloid newspaper to carry a story on the curse of World Class. Someone called here to get details on the different World Class tragedies and I refused any information to them. The policy here is that we give information to subscribers only, and although I know they get the bulletin somehow, I don't know who through. Anyway, the premise of the story will be some evil witch or something placing a curse on Fritz Von Erich while he was a wrestler and the curse carrying over to affect not only his family but also anyone who has worked for the World Class Promotion. Normally I'd say the story is too far fetched

but then I considered the source and decided maybe it wasn't far fetched enough.

Before I forget, the answer to Ed Garea's trivia question as found in the Phantom of the Ring is "The Intercollegiate Dark Secret." 27

Last night convinced me that when I grow up, I don't want to be a sportswriter. Typing while trying to watch an event is almost impossible. When I worked for the newspaper (I was in the circulation department then) I always volunteered to go out and cover high school football and basketball games for the sports department (management said that since I had had no formal training in writing, I wasn't qualified) but now I'm glad I didn't. Probably one game would have been the end of my interest in the business of writing for a living.

A sad note to pass along. Iron Mike Sharpe Sr., father of perineal jobber Iron Mike Sharpe of the WWF, died during the past couple of weeks of a heart attack. I don't have a lot of info on the death other than Mike Jr. did not show up for his father's funeral. I understand there had been some hard feelings between the two in the past. Nevertheless, our sympathies go out to the family.

I guess SummerScam had a little more interest than I thought. I got calls from two local radio stations this morning wanting on the air reports. I did one.

The press will definitely be here this weekend. I'm told it has been loaded on the truck and will be here either Friday night or Saturday morning. A friend who runs presses is coming on Monday (a rare day off) to set it up.

Titan is attempting to run a show in Peoria with no local TV (or little local TV) on September 12. I've made arrangements to attend. I think, even though it's a weeknight. Should have a report next time.

Bob Geigel and his Central States promotion is working on a deal with FNN. Geigel claims to have enough talent to run regular shows, so we'll see how negotiations go on this.

That wraps up another issue. We'll see you all in a couple of weeks. Oh, by the way, for those of you who have asked, yes, the October 15 issue will probably be late by two or three days while we try to get back to normal after the Memphis trip. Looking forward to seeing a lot of you there! Bye now.

WRESTLING FORUM V3I16
Jon Gallagher Editor
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I may just be your mailing label printed in black (which means your subscription is current), but I'm drinkin' MILK! And before you know it, my print will turn green which will mean that this is your next to last issue. Then I'll turn red which means this is your last issue unless you renew. That also means you need to send money. But for now, if I'm black, don't worry. I'll stick around for a little while. Thanks for reading!